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January 30, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Richard Kaufman and Ron Tammen on Soviet Defense Budget

1. Kaufman, an economist on the Joint Economic Committee Staff, had asked to discuss Agency analysis of Soviet defense spending. In response to that request, [redacted] STATINTL and I accompanied [redacted] of OSR to a STATINTL meeting today. Kaufman was joined by Ron Tammen of Senator Proxmire's staff.

2. Kaufman began by stating that the Joint Committee was planning to ask for the Director's testimony on the Soviet defense budget and that he was interested in doing a bit of exploratory spadework. No date has been set for hearings and Kaufman said it would probably be well into March before they were held.

3. Kaufman said he was not so interested in budget figures as he was in what the money bought the Soviets in terms of capability. He felt that one had to approach such a quest by examining the force components--the "building block" theory. Mr. [redacted] STATINTL pointed out that although there are problems of evaluating capability by money spent, it is probably a better way to gain an understanding of the forces than trying to get detailed data on weapons inventories etc.--especially for the Joint Economic Committee. He also pointed out the complexities of measuring military effectiveness.

4. From the outset of the conversation, there was no doubt that what Kaufman and Tammen really wanted was access to Agency's classified studies on the various Soviet force components. Beyond this, they both felt that much of this classified material could be made public. Incidental to this,

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Kaufman expressed his distrust of Pentagon posture statements, both public and private. Tammen also added that the Director had expressed his willingness last year to provide the Joint Committee with the conclusions to classified studies.

5. We noted that Mr. Colby's policy was to provide as much information to the Congress as he possibly could; that he often discussed Soviet force postures in great detail for Congressional committees. We then more or less took turns explaining that force figures and costs are built on a highly refined knowledge of various weapons systems and that going public in this detail would provide an excellent indication of just how good our collection systems were.

6. At the same time, we agreed there might be some compromise ground and offered to explore this further. I have no doubt we will be hearing more from Messrs. Kaufman and Tammen.

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